

GOOD LUCK? BAD LUCK? WHO KNOWS ??

From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.

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Intent of the Story

- ✓ *A true believer does not believe in luck, fate or fortune but only in God's Providence.*
- ✓ *God is the supreme Master.*
- ✓ *Accept everything in faith and trust God knows best.*

The Story

Pravin, a rich farmer, living in a far away village owned a most beautiful horse. One day, the horse jumped over the fence and ran away to the jungle. The horse was lost. His neighbors sympathizing with him, said; "Pravin, We are sorry for you. You lost your best horse. Bad luck for you". Pravin replied: "You need not comfort me. I lost my best horse, true. But, 'Good luck, bad luck? God knows!'"

Few days later, his horse returned from the jungle. It brought along a herd of beautiful wild horses. Pravin was happy and overjoyed at the beauty of the new horses. Again the neighbors came to him. This time to congratulate him they said: "Pravin, good luck! We envy you!" Pravin gave them the same reply: "Good luck, bad luck? God knows!"

Some time later, Pravin's elder son, a strong young and courageous boy, was taming those young, wild horses. While riding on one of them, he was thrown over, had a fall and broke his leg. The neighbors met him and lamented: "Sorry, Pravin, bad luck this time". Pravin gave them the same reply: "Good luck, bad luck? God knows!"

Some days later, the envoys of the king reached the village with the bad news that their neighboring kingdom had attacked their country. And that the King had ordered all the able bodied young men of the realm to join the army immediately to fight the invaders. All the youth of the village left their homes. Only Pravin's son, because of his broken leg, was spared. He remained at home with his parents. The villagers, in a chorus, kept saying: "Pravin, what good luck you had! " Again, "Pravin gave them the same answer: "Good luck, bad luck? God knows!" *(An old Chinese story)*

POINTS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

1. Explain: According to you. what "good luck", and also what "bad luck" is?
2. Should believers in God believe in "luck", "fortune", "fate", "destiny", stars, etc? Why? What should they believe in? Why?
3. Is there any such thing as "luck or fate" independently from God's will and power? Why?

4. In all the events of life, can you like the Farmer say: “Good Luck? Bad luck! God knows”? What do we mean by these words?
5. Explain the following sentences:
 - “For a believer, luck, fate, stars, fortune, destiny, chance, do not exist”
 - A person who believes in God should never lose his cool.
 - “Everything that happens works for the good of those who love God”
 - For a believer “Good and bad things” are always **good!**
 - “Some people do the will of God, some others don not, yet the will of God is always done!” (*St. Augustine*)
6. Can you share with the group what your reaction was when ‘bad things’ happened to you in the past, and what was your reaction when ‘good things’ took place? Give instances.
7. Can you remember some passages from the Bible where we are told to trust in God?

BIBLE TEXTS CONCERNING TRUST IN GOD AND GOD’S PROVIDENCE:

Teachings of Jesus:

Mt 6/9-13	Teaching of the OUR FATHER
Mt 6/24-34	God and Possessions. Place your trust in God.
Mt 7/7-11	Ask, Seek, Knock
Mt 11/25-30	Come to me, all who are burdened...
Mt 16/21-23	Men’s thoughts are not God’s thoughts...
Mk 10/17-25	Rich Man’s incident. Are riches good or bad luck?
Lk 6/20-26	The beatitudes according to Luke. Good? Bad?
Lk 12/4-6	Whom to fear?
Lk 12/13-21	Parable of the Rich Fool. Wealth, Luck or...?
Lk 12/22-33	Trust in God, not in wealth and possessions
Lk 16/19-31	Rich man and Lazarus, who was the lucky one?
Lk 24/13-27	Suffering good or bad?
Jn 16/19-22	Sadness or gladness?

In the Life of Jesus:

Mt 26/36-44	Jesus’ agony in the Garden. Not my Will...
Mt 28/1-10	Resurrection of Christ. All his sufferings turned good
Mk 15/33-37	Jesus’ words on the cross. “Father why have you forsaken me?” ,In reality, was he forsaken? Why?
Lk 23/44-46	Last words of Jesus on the Cross-. “Into your hands, Father, I entrust myself”. Trust, surrender.

Other passages

Mt 15/21-28	Canaanite Woman’s faith
Lk 1/46-55	Canticle of our Lady. Who is blessed and lucky?
Lk 8/43-48	A woman’s faith. If I only can touch the hem of his cloak’
Jn 2/1-12	Cana. Their discomfiture turned into joy
Jn 8/1-11	Woman caught in adultery. Her sin was a blessing!

Jn 9/1-43 Cure of the Blind Man. Was his blindness a curse or a blessing? What that blindness meant for?
Jn 16/19-22 What was Lazarus's death - a curse or a blessing?

Even their sins turned to be blessings for:

Lk 5/27-32 Mathew, the Tax Collector
Lk 7/36-50 Mary Magdalene
Lk 19/1-10 Zacchaeus

From the Old Testament:

The whole story of Joseph told by his brothers to the Egyptians Genesis Chapters 37, 39, 40,41,42,43,44,45,46, 47